



## **Ian Hongell**

### **Chief Winemaker at Peter Lehmann Wines**

Ian Hongell has been a part of the Lehmann way of life since an early age. Bred in Tanunda, a stone's throw from the Peter Lehmann winery, Ian's father worked alongside Peter Lehmann himself at Saltram in the 1970s. Young Ian grew up with the next generation of Lehmann's, with winemaking always in his mind. His first attempt was at the age of seven with some hand-picked grapes and an ice cream bucket.

Following his studies at Roseworthy College, he secured a winemaking role at Penfolds and has since worked in California, France and Germany to further his experience.

The opportunity to head up one of the largest winemaking operations in New South Wales saw Ian head to Griffith as Winemaker at The Cranswick Estate.

In 1998, after five years in New South Wales, Ian headed home to Barossa, bringing his knowledge of local resources and international experience together in a new role with Peter Lehmann Wines.

Ian has been mentored by Lehmann's previous Chief Winemaker Andrew Wigan, who himself was mentored by Peter Lehmann. Ian is now the third winemaker to continue Peter Lehmann's legacy taking on the role of Chief Winemaker in January 2015.

The Hongell family is also part of an extended multi-generational family of 146 farmers that offer PLW the best of the breadth of the Barossa. Ian's small Shiraz vineyard at Stonewell gives him "a personal seasonal barometer" to what is happening in the vineyards across the region.

Ian is a scholar of the Len Evans Tutorial, and is a regular judge on the national wine show circuit.

He has a practical approach to winemaking, just as he does to most things in life. He is a true outdoorsman - a keen fisherman, water-skier, hockey player, and archer. He loves cooking, and if given the chance would write a cookbook, called "Kill, Cook, Eat".

He lives on his vineyard at Stonewell with wife Daniela, kids Oliver, Jasper, Freya and vineyard mate Ferris the Dalmatian.